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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/634,912 | 08/06/2003 | Yves Berthiaume | 086168-0303500 | 6483 |
| 909 | 7590 | 06/17/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP | | | | AVILA, STEPHEN P |
| P.O. BOX 10500 | | | | ART UNIT |
| MCLEAN, VA 22102 | | | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | 3617 |

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/634,912 | BERTHIAUME ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Stephen Avila | 3617 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11, 15-23, 29 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 12-14, 24-28 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-9, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Courtney. Courtney discloses the claimed subject matter including a watercraft 2, with an outboard motor 4, a hull, and a towing apparatus with a towing bar 6 and a slidable towing connector 26.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 10, 11, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney in view of Jennings. Courtney does not disclose a flexible bar. Jennings teaches a flexible bar at bushing 22. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Courtney with a flexible portion as taught by Jennings for improved skiing speed.

5. Claims 17, 18, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney in view of Kobayashi. Courtney does not disclose a straddle seat or a jet propulsion personal watercraft. Kobayashi teaches a straddle seat and a jet propulsion personal watercraft. It would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Courtney with a straddle seat and as a jet propulsion personal watercraft as taught by Kobayashi for low cost, high speed and comfort.

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney in view of Badley. Courtney does not disclose a stowed pylon. Badley teaches a stowed pylon. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Courtney with a pylon which can be stowed for stowage when not in use as taught by Badley.

7. Claims 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney in view of Badley as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Kobayashi. Courtney does not disclose a straddle seat or a jet propulsion personal watercraft. Kobayashi teaches a straddle seat and a jet propulsion personal watercraft. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Courtney with a straddle seat and as a jet propulsion personal watercraft as taught by Kobayashi for low cost, high speed and comfort.

8. Claims 12-14, 24-28, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Avila whose telephone number is 703-308-

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2578. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 AM to 4 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen Avila
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

*Avila
6/4/04*